In the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A biodegradable sulfate composition comprising sulfates of an alkyl branched primary alcohol composition having an average chain length per molecule of from ~~8~~14 to ~~36~~19 carbon atoms, wherein said alcohol composition has an average number of branches per molecule of ~~at least~~ 0.7 to 2.3 , less than 0.5 atom % of quaternary carbon atoms, and said branching comprises methyl and ethyl branches and at least 40% of the branches are methyl branches and 5% to 30% of the number of branches are ethyl branches and from 5 to 25% of the number of branches are on the C_2 atoms of the composition.

2. (Original) The biodegradable sulfate composition of claim 1, wherein the average number of branches per chain ranges from 1.5 to 2.3.

3. (Original) The biodegradable sulfate composition of claim 1, wherein said alcohol composition contains less than 5% linear alcohols.

4. (Previously Presented) The biodegradable sulfate composition of claim 3, wherein said alcohol composition contains less than 3% linear alcohols.

Claim 5 (Canceled).

6. (Currently Amended) The biodegradable sulfate composition of claim ~~5~~1, wherein from 10-20% of the number of branches are on the C_2 atoms of the alcohol composition.

7. (Original) The biodegradable sulfate composition of claim 1, wherein from 10-50% of the number of branches are on the C_3 atoms of the alcohol composition.

8. (Original) The biodegradable sulfate composition of claim 2, wherein from 15-30% of the number of branches are on the C_3 atoms of the alcohol composition.

Claims 9-11 (Canceled).

12. (Previously Presented) The biodegradable sulfate composition of claim 1 wherein from 10% to 20% of the number of branches are ethyl branches.

Claims 13-69 (Canceled).

70. (Currently Amended) A branched primary alcohol composition having an average chain length per molecule of from ~~8~~14 to ~~36~~19 carbon atoms, an average number of ~~branched~~ branches per molecule chain ranging from 0.7 to 2.1, said branching comprising methyl and ethyl branches, and less than 0.5 atom % of quaternary carbon atoms, and wherein less than 5% of the

alcohol molecules in the composition are linear alcohols and at least 40% of the branches are methyl branches and wherein 5% to 30% of the number of branches are ethyl branches and wherein 5 to 25% of the number of branches are on the C_2 atoms of the alcohol composition.

Claim 71 (Canceled).

72. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 70, comprising a sulfate of the alcohol composition.

73. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 70, comprising an ethoxysulfate of the alcohol composition.

Claim 74 (Canceled).

75. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 70 having an average number of branches per molecule ranging from 1.3 to 2.1.

Claim 76 (Canceled).

77. (Currently Amended) A biodegradable branched primary alcohol composition having an average chain length per molecule of from ~~8~~14 to ~~36~~19 carbon atoms, an average number of branches per molecule of ~~at least~~ 0.7 to 2.3, said branching comprising methyl and ethyl branches, and wherein from 5-25% of the branching is at the C_2 position relative to the hydroxyl carbon atom, and from 10% to 50% of the branches are located at the C_3 position and at least 40% of the branches are methyl branches and from 5% to 30% of the number of branches are ethyl branches, said composition having less than 0.5 atom % of quaternary carbon atoms.

Claims 78 (Canceled).

79. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim ~~78~~77, having an average number of branches ranging from 0.7 to 2.1.

Claims 80 (Canceled).

81. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 77, wherein less than 5% of the alcohol molecules are linear.

82. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 77, comprising a sulfate of the composition.

83. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 77, comprising an ethoxysulfate of the composition.

84. (Previously Presented) The biodegradable sulfate composition of claim 1 wherein said alcohol composition contains branching at the C_2 and C_3 carbon positions.

85. (Currently Amended) A biodegradable sulfate composition comprising sulfates of an alkyl branched primary alcohol composition having an average chain length per molecule of from ~~8~~14 to ~~36~~17 carbon atoms, wherein said alcohol composition has an average number of branches per molecule of ~~at least~~ 0.7 to 2.3, less than 0.5 atom % of quaternary carbon atoms, and said branching comprises methyl and ethyl branches and 5% to 25% of the number of branches are on the C_2 atoms of the alcohol composition and at least 40% of the branches are methyl branches and from 5% to 30% of the number of branches are ethyl branches.

86. (Previously Presented) The biodegradable sulfate composition of claim 85 wherein said alcohol composition contains less than 5% of linear alcohols.

87. (Previously Presented) The biodegradable sulfate composition of claim 86 wherein said alcohol composition contains less than 3% linear alcohols.

88. (Previously Presented) The biodegradable sulfate composition of claim 85 wherein from 10 to 50% of the number of branches are on the C_3 atoms of the alcohol composition.

89. (Previously Presented) The biodegradable sulfate composition of claim 88 wherein from 15 to 30% of the number of branches are on the C_3 atoms of the alcohol composition.

Claims 90-91 (Canceled).

92. (Previously Presented) The biodegradable sulfate composition of claim 85 wherein said alcohol composition contains at least 5% of isopropyl terminal type of branching.

93. (Previously Presented) The biodegradable sulfate composition of claim 85 wherein said alcohol composition is obtained by skeletally isomerizing olefins under skeletal isomerization conditions.

94. (Currently Amended) A branched primary alcohol composition having an average chain length per molecule of from ~~8~~14 to ~~36~~17 carbon atoms, an average number of branches per molecule of ~~at least~~ 0.7 to 2.3, less than 0.5 atom % of quaternary carbon atoms, and said branching comprises methyl and ethyl branches and 5% to 25% of the number of branches are on the C_2 atoms of the alcohol composition and at least 40% of the branches are methyl branches and 5% to 30% of the number of branches are ethyl branches.

95. (Previously Presented) The alcohol composition of claim 94 wherein said alcohol composition contains less than 5% of linear alcohols.

96. (Previously Presented) The alcohol composition of claim 95 wherein said alcohol composition contains less than 3% linear alcohols.

97. (Previously Presented) The alcohol composition of claim 94 wherein from 10 to 50% of the number of branches are on the C_3 atoms of the alcohol composition.

98. (Previously Presented) The alcohol composition of claim 97 wherein from 15 to 30% of the number of branches are on the C_3 atoms of the alcohol composition.

Claims 99-100 (Canceled).

101. (Previously Presented) The alcohol composition of claim 94 wherein said alcohol composition contains at least 5% of isopropyl terminal type of branching.

102. (Previously Presented) The alcohol composition of claim 94 wherein said alcohol composition is obtained by skeletally isomerizing olefins under skeletal isomerization conditions.

Please add the following new claims:

103. (New) The biodegradable sulfate composition of claim 1 wherein the average number of branches per chain ranges from 0.7 to 2.1.

104. (New) The biodegradable sulfate composition of claim 1 wherein the average chain length per molecule is from 14 to 17 carbon atoms.

105. (New) The branched primary alcohol composition of claim 70 wherein the average chain length per molecule is from 14 to 17 carbon atoms.

106. (New) The biodegradable branched primary alcohol composition of claim 77 wherein the average chain length per molecule is from 14 to 17 carbon atoms.

107. (New) The biodegradable branched primary alcohol composition of claim 77 wherein the average number of branches is from 0.7 to 2.1.

108. (New) The biodegradable sulfate composition of claim 85 wherein the average number of branches per molecule is from 0.7 to 2.1.

109. (New) The branched primary alcohol composition of claim 94 wherein the average number of branches per molecule is 0.7 to 2.1.